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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Claims for VA Burial Allowances in Performance
of Duty Death Cases


1. As a result of our experience in several recent performance of duty death cases of learning that the Veteran's Administration (VA) seems now to be refusing to make their \$150 burial allowance payment where there appears to be a possibility of a BEC burial payment, I called Mr. Clyde Middleton, Deputy Director, BEC.

2. Mr. Middleton indicated that the VA has gotten much stricter in their burial allowance payments to the extent that if the VA learns that a claim is made or should be made to the Bureau of Employees' Compensation and the VA has already made its burial allowance payment, the VA will require BEC to reimburse them in the amount of \$150. I told Mr. Middleton that VA seems to be following the practice now of refusing to make payments in apparent performance of duty cases. Mr. Middleton replied that he thought this was a good administrative procedure on the VA's part.

3. I indicated to Mr. Middleton that in view of this new policy on the part of VA it would appear that in our handling of POD death cases we should advise next of kin not to make VA claims either directly or indirectly through their funeral director. They should make only the one claim to BEC.

4. Therefore, in all future performance of duty death cases it shall be the policy of this Branch to advise next of kin not to make claims to the VA for their burial allowance. Should the funeral director have previously made such a claim to the VA we will wait to see whether the VA honors that claim before finally settling the matter with BEC.

STATINTL


Chief, Casualty Affairs Branch
Benefits and Casualty Division